

# REVOLUTION

ISSUE 54

socialist youth movement • 30p

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## GEORGE BUSH'S



# BLOODLUST

Starring Tony Blair as "The Poodle"

Script by

EXXON MOBIL

Original battle plan

GEORGE BUSH <sup>Snr.</sup>

Theme tune sung by

ARIEL SHARON

FEATURING A CAST OF THOUSANDS (OF CORPSES)

Coming soon... unless we organise to stop the war!

Come to the European Social Forum  
Florence, Italy Nov 6-10th

• Drivel. Mindless, pointless drivel. That is the sum of a history course in a world that chooses not to learn. History is warped, molded and manipulated to best serve those teaching it. Thus explains my textbook, which glorifies all of the evils and injustices that all of our ancestors lived by. Why learn it? I say, why not?

• It's always been a belief - in the States at least - that those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it. Funny, but that may actually be the wisest thing any class I've ever taken has left behind. It's a timeless lesson that proves itself over and over. I mean, German troops invaded

France twice in the first half of the twentieth century, and both times they came the same way. (Misconception? Again, my history books are biased, so you can never really tell.) The French did not learn from their first encounter with history, thus they were doomed indeed to repeat it.

• "Well, that's a nice piece of trivia, Ariene, but what does it have to do with us?" Okay. What does history have to do with us, with the Revolution? It's simple. The earliest settlers in America were

• comprised mostly of slaves and indentured servants. They paid their debts in time, sweat, and blood, whilst their masters and overseers thrived. Certainly in the beginning even slaves were free in a sense, and some were paid for their efforts. This is an alarming parallel to the situation we face today.

• All around the world, people are forced

to work under the conditions the ancestral slaves did, maybe worse but little better, for scraps that even the slaves of old would have turned their noses up at.

• They work without training or experience, insurance or even enough compensation to make it worthwhile.

• Of course, this is all a by-product of the

capitalist "big house." The bigwigs still

carry their whips, but now they've begun to cover them up with dreams of grandeur - "Two weeks paid vacation!" "You can go

buy what you like!" and, of course, a ham

at Christmas. They're blinded to their

condition, more so than their predeces-

sors ever were, and until they open their

eyes they will continue to support the big

boys and girls getting fat and sassy on the

Hill.

• History also serves as a reminder to us -

never lose sight of the truth. If all we fight

for is to allow some other joker to monop-

olize us and the fight itself, then we've

done nothing more than regress to

our original state. However, as long as

we stay focused and united, history tells

us that our determination will pay off.

• Any questions? This will be on your test.

I want to contribute. I am in Canada and I am seventeen. I wish for revolution much the same you do. I believe the only way to truly revolutionize the world is to make it more democratic. Turn the current systems of the world from capital democracy into social democracies. Really this would be much simpler than most people believe; we already have the infrastructure to move towards a true democracy. The difficult part will be educating a deceived and ignorant public.

• WE MUST make the public understand that the current system is not representing them and worse yet is set-up to ignore the will of the people and empower corporate interest.

• Over 30 schools were recently shut down in British Columbia because they were no longer viable (?). Some children are now forced to travel 2 hours over mountainous terrain just to get an education. This absolutely disgusts me. While MP's get to vote for their own pay increases, we are denied the right of input on how our children are being educated. BULL SHIT!

• We could use our schools (yeah the ones they're trying to shut down) or community centres to have STUDY GROUPS. Each town would have a proportional representative population. These groups could discuss and make a priority of government spending in their area.

• An example of how this would be effective in British Columbia. About 70% of the population lives on the coast. To them, Hope (a city) is out in the middle of nowhere; as far as the government is

concerned anything past Hope doesn't exist. BC is a large province with many different cultures and many different regional concerns. The study group system could help prioritize funding specific to the needs of each community better than this system.

• In my town in the last three years we have lost 5 teachers from our high school (yes just one high school). Some loyal and excellent teachers still remain and yet now there is talk of closing our school to amalgamate with two near-by towns. This is detrimental for the students of course but hell it'll save some bucks for the government.

• My community recently lost our hospital. The Liberal government seems to think that it is worth having to ship seriously wounded individuals off to Calgary which is a three and a half hour drive, just to save some bloody money. BULL SHIT!!

• What's worse than this is just how my government mistreats its people. This pales in comparison to the out and out exploitation of other citizens of this world. Ya know because they don't look like us or pray to the same god so they don't matter (*sarcasm hopefully you caught on*).

• I Hate this system I will do anything ANYTHING to see its demise in my time. This is a global issue country's matter not. ALL corrupt systems must fall ALL people must be recognized

**CITIZENS OF THE WORLD UNITE!!!!**

by Matt Wilkes of BC

## THE POKEMON REVENGE

• A long time ago (Issue 37) I, James, wrote an article about how Pokemon wasn't a loveable TV show/card game/computer game. Now I believe that it is time for an update on the situation. Since the 14th of August I have been getting hate mail. Yes that's right hate mail, not fan mail, about my long term membership of the now "infamous" Team FLAP ([www.teamflap.com](http://www.teamflap.com)).

• The person who calls themselves "Rebel" is the webmaster of a site called

"The Cybergym" and has said that there is a "war" on and that I am up to my "psychotic" eyeballs in it. Whether he is referring to me or everyone who is against Pokemon, I don't know.

• All this person's emails have done is show me that I was right to say that all that Pokemon does is teach us how to be good little consumers. Pokemon is a fad. And like all the fads before it, it is a purely consumerist thing there to make money and noth-

ing else. It makes its money by targeting young children and alienated youth who have no control over their lives.

• And anyone who decides to oppose Pokemon and the consumerism forced upon us by its makers, whether for the reasons I do or for any other reasons, then they are attacked by every spotty twelve year old sad git and his pet gerbil, for being against a "cute" TV show about a boy and his pet rat.



# A NEW WINTER OF DISCONTENT -

with long shadows and high hopes

Rail workers, tube drivers, postal workers, council workers, and health workers have all been on strike this year after growing anger with privatisation, attacks on working conditions and low wages boiled over. These strikes are not - as the right wing press claim - the result of power crazed union bosses flexing their muscles, but a sign that patience with the New Labour government has run its course. Working people have seen their concerns over job security, low pay and pensions brushed aside as Labour continues to court big business.

Now it's the turn of the fire fighters to lose patience. On Monday 2nd September thousands of fire fighters form all over the UK marched in central London with their families to ask for a decent increase in their annual salaries. They are now threatening to strike for the first time since 1977 if an agreement is not reached. Their employers have offered a 4% increase. At first glance this looks reasonable, but as one fire fighter explained, "Four per cent of nothing is still nothing". Fire fighters' pay is worked out by a formula that has not changed since 1977 although the job has changed beyond recognition in those 25 years.

## £30K is fair pay!

A fully qualified fire fighter (after 4 years training) gets £21,531 for a 42 hour week, with no extra pay for working nights or weekends. Their job doesn't just involve putting out fires and rescuing cats from trees. Fire fighters today deal with chemical

spills, car, rail and plane crashes, plus property fires. In fact, any major disaster requires the skills and bravery of fire fighters as shown on September 11th. Day to day fire fighters also undertake safety inspections (clubs, schools, shops, etc) and do community education programmes for children and adults. They are asking for a minimum wage of £30k to bring their wages in line with comparably skilled jobs.

The Fire Brigades Union (FBU) estimates that 1 in 5 fire fighters have second jobs to make ends meet. Just compare police salaries to fire fighters and we can see where the government priorities are. A police constable starts on £23,323. Police in London also enjoy free travel within a 70-mile radius of the capital which can be worth around £3k a year. (Plus their stocks in the donut market worth about £2k a year.)

A strike will be the last resort for the fire fighters if the employers refuse to listen to their concerns. This is a dispute where the fire fighters will enjoy a high level of public support. We should all be behind the fire fighters. The fire service is a vital public service and the workers are underpaid given the danger that the job can involve. Is it really fair that executives in the City still take home telephone number salaries even when their companies lose money and they sack thousands of workers?

**Support the firefighters!!**

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BY YUEN  
IN NEW  
CROSS



## NUCLEAR FALLOUT from the earth summit



Yet another world

summit rises and falls amidst a stir of protests from both within and without the conference hall. At this past week's 2002 Earth Summit, the largest international conference ever, the 100 'world leaders' and total of 60,000 delegates could not decide on any concrete course of action to reduce environmental degradation or poverty. While inside the meeting halls the delegates were enthralled in bitter disagreement and conflict, outside the clashes were even more dramatic - the Johannesburg police were attacking protesters with rubber bullets and water cannons. A story that is becoming increasingly familiar.

Meanwhile, inside the meetings, there were two types of conclusions reached by the delegates, neither of which set out any course of action. The first are concrete 'goals' to be

reached such as: halving the number of people who don't have basic sanitation and the number of people who live below the poverty line (\$1 a day) by 2015; restoration of fish stocks by 2015; land tenure and women's right to own and inherit land in Africa; increased funding for technical resources to developing countries; and finally to give environmental treaties equal standing to the WTO (n.b. *not* higher standing, just equal standing, so there is no real challenge to the WTO's authority). No concrete plans for how to achieve any of these goals were made. The second type of conclusions reached is characterised by vagueness. For example, on the issue of poverty they have decided to recognise that environmental destruction and poverty are linked. On the question of sustainable development they have agreed to develop an action plan in 10 years. On Africa, they have decided that it needs special attention. But the crowning achievement is without doubt the ground-breaking discovery that trade and globalisation are 'not all good'. No shit Sherlock.

But not everyone thought the summit was a failure. In fact while the charities present and the G77 (a coalition of the poorest 77 countries) felt the meeting was "the worst political sellout the world had seen in decades", the big business delegates declared the meetings a resounding success! Anyone surprised? This

summit - the latest in a slew of closed-door meetings

- demonstrates more dramatically than ever that when it comes to respecting either the interests of business or those of the poor, big business always wins. Once again they expose the problem underlying all these international conferences of 'world leaders'. At the end of the day the reality is always that the rich get richer while the poor get poorer regardless of the rhetoric they wrap this reality in.

But people worldwide in rich and poor countries alike are starting to realise this, and the result are mass protests in the streets. And when it's a matter of life and death, rubber bullets are not likely to stop anyone from rising up.

by marianne (soon to be) in brighton



# LIFE UNDER

A number of the REVO crew spent part of their summer in the Occupied Territories. These are their



## CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH THE ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCE

Standing with my passport held high in the air and my other hand above my head clearly visible so the IDF soldier pointing the turret barrel of the tank could see we are unarmed. This is how I found myself on a Monday lunchtime in early July. As part of the ISM (International Solidarity Movement), a group of us were engaged in non-violent direct action in support of the Palestinian resistance. I was surrounded by people from Denmark, Japan, the US, and Puerto Rico.

Today we were protecting a small group of Palestinian workers as they tried to fix a well in the Gaza desert. The well had provided water for tens of thousands of people in the Nusirat refugee camp but it had stopped working fifteen months ago. When the workers had gone out to fix it, the Israelis soldiers based in the Netzarim settlement had shot at them and injured one in the leg. (The Israelis place settlements on top of hills and strategically near water and other precious resources.)

We were with the Palestinians to act as international protection, 'solidarity bodyguards', who stood around conspicuously whilst the welders and the engineers patched up the bullet holes in the fuel tank and got the pump working again. We had a bulldozer parked over near the Palestinian side of no-man's land, which was needed

to make a road in the desert so that a tractor could bring petrol to keep the well pumping everyday.

What we learned is that wells only work when you have the resources and the infrastructure to keep them serviced and refuelled everyday. But resources and infrastructure is something that is severely lacking for the Palestinians in the Gaza strip.

The Israeli soldiers watched us for a few hours, their machinegun tower sitting over the sand dunes. As some of us headed back to pick up the bulldozer, we noticed the sand in the distance getting churned up into the sky. We heard the rumble of a motor and the whine of the tracks as an Israeli tank made its way slowly towards us.

The workers stood around, their work finished. Compared to the twitchy internationals they were calm, sitting in the sun and talking to us about their families. They are used to the tanks and guns; the shouts of the Israelis soldiers at the checkpoints to hurry up and get a move on. An approaching tank is nothing special to them, just another fact of the occupation.

The tank gets nearer and stops on top of a dune. It points its gun at us and then comes closer. Suddenly it accelerates right at us. We put our hands and passports in

the air and suddenly I am desperately aware of the kofia around my neck. One of the soldiers appears out of the turret and looks at us through his binoculars. He checks us out for a few moments and then the tank drives away; one of the soldiers waves us off as if he was a traffic policeman.

After the bulldozer makes the road, the tractor comes up and refuels the tank. The well starts to work again and for that night some of the refugees in Nusirat have clean water.

We returned the next day after hearing rumours that the IDF came and demolished the new road during the night. We saw with our own eyes the work of the Israeli occupation. What we tried to build on the Monday was destroyed by the Tuesday. The well had stopped working again for no more fuel could get through. The municipality couldn't send up another bulldozer to make the road again. 'What's the point?' they asked.

Two tanks patrolled nearby, gradually drawing closer to us. I looked out over the dunes again before we left to go back to the city. One of the Israeli soldiers in the watchtower sees me:

'We'll kill you motherfuckers!' he shouts, waving.

BY SIMON H  
IN SHEF

## the story of jihad atiti, a suicide bomber

as told to me by his brother, Ala

Jihad Atiti, the youngest son of a family of ten, was 18 years old when he left the confines of the Balata refugee camp on the outskirts of Nablus armed as a walking bomb and brought the war against the Palestinians into Israel. This is his story as told by his brother, Ala, now targeted by the IDF.

Shortly before the Israeli army officially reinvaded Nablus earlier this year, soldiers opened fire on several teenage boys in the streets of Balata camp. Jihad's friend was wounded but the Israeli army was not allowing

ambulances in to take the wounded to hospital. Jihad ran out into the street to pick up his friend and move him to safety. The army fired at him, hitting him in the right side. He lost a huge chunk of flesh and underwent surgery, but luckily no vital organs were damaged.

Within a month of this attack, March 1st, the army stormed the Atiti house, forced the family into one room, wrecked the home and stole their savings. The soldiers then detonated 2 plastic explosives on an interior wall to weaken the structure to make it easier for the bulldozer to knock it down with the family still in the house. Just as the bulldozer was going to begin the demolition, reporters from Al Jazeera TV arrived and the army backed off.

Less than a month later, the Israeli army invaded Balata camp, firing on the residents from Apache helicopters. On April 9th, Jihad's older brother, Munir, and 13 year old son, Saleh,

were shelled by a tank just outside their front door. Munir spinal cord was severed and he is just now beginning to walk again. Saleh is now in hospital in Germany to have shrapnel removed from his throat and nose.

On April 28th, the Israeli army invaded Balata camp again. This time all males between 15 and 50 were forced to strip and were paraded through the streets of the camp blindfolded with their hands tied behind their backs. They were taken to jail where they were questioned for several days and where they suffered more humiliation and torture. While the men were away in jail, the army blasted holes in the walls of all homes so they could move between the houses without entering the streets.

Jihad was shot a second time while participating in a peaceful protest at a roadblock. He stood on a car and waved a Palestinian flag when an Israeli soldier shot him in the leg. He fell off the car and hit his head which

affected his eyesight from then on.

His best friend and cousin, Mahmoud, and two friends were assassinated by the Israeli army while visiting a friend's grave on May 22nd. The army fired 8 tank shells loaded with over 500 nails shaped like arrows. All three were killed by multiple direct hits. Jihad ran to the cemetery and found Mahmoud's body in pieces. He tried to pick his body up but his hand passed through the body through a hole created by the tank.

Four days later, Jihad walked to the centre of an open air café outside Tel Aviv and detonated an explosive belt that he was wearing under his t-shirt, killing himself, 2 Israelis and injuring 50 others.

The Israeli army refuses to release Jihad's body to his family. They are holding it to a prison sentence of at least 25 years.

by joy in

# OCCUPATION

accounts of what it means for the Palestinian people to live under occupation and to RESIST.

## Youth in Rafah: organise and fight

During our two week stay in Palestine, we spent 4 days in the southern-most city in the Gaza Strip – Rafah. It lies right on the Egyptian border and is one of the areas hardest hit by the Occupation in Gaza.

One thing you can't miss when you are in Rafah (and indeed the whole of Gaza) is wall after wall covered with political graffiti in black, green and red the colours of the Palestinian flag, much of it written by children. They express the mood here – real anger, real pain, real frustration. Along with slogans, pictures are also used to convey messages. Grenades, settler buses being blown up, and IDF soldiers being shot: images like this provide the backdrop in Gaza.

Forty-eight per cent of those killed by the IDF in Rafah are under the age of 12. Most Children in Rafah suffer from malnutrition and post-traumatic stress disorder. School children are often shot at on their way to school. Most of them spend most of their spare time throwing stones at tanks and jeeps as a way of venting their frustrations.

One night we are taken to a café where young men come to drink tea and smoke after a day of throwing stones. "All we have is stones," one guy tells me. "They have tanks, the latest guns, yet they say they shoot children because they feel threatened. Do you believe this? Does anyone?"

Due to the large number of deaths, many of the walls are used as memorials for Rafah's dead, the 'shahids' (martyrs). Posters with their faces can be seen everywhere.

We meet a man called Abdullah Roof who is our guide for most of a time here. He is wanted by Israel for 'inciting' children to rebel and is something of a local hero. He runs what is called "Children's Parliament", an organisation which allows the children of Rafah to organise around the occupation. They come together to voice their concerns and discuss ways to address problems they face, like being shot at on the way to school.

They have regular elections and their activities include designing posters and leaflets about fighting the occupation, painting murals and having regular meetings to plan responses to the occupation. We were invited to one of their meetings where they asked us questions. I was amazed at how politicised they were. Some were as young as 8 yrs old. They asked us questions like: "Why does America allow Sharon to kill us?" "Why hasn't the UN intervened here yet? Are they not meant to observe human rights abuses around the world? Are we not worthy of human rights?"

One girl stood up and sang a song about the loss of her father who was killed along with her 2 brothers by Israeli missiles. With her hands crossed across her chest and a look of pain that should never be seen on a human face let alone that of a child she sang,

"Stand and struggle for freedom against the oppressors  
We are the Sons and Daughters of Palestine"  
We know no borders, no fears  
We stand and fight, our Souls we sacrifice for an independent Palestine  
Father, I know you were a fighter, I know you are dead and never coming back"

Her words still ring in my ears and the look on her face I will never forget.

by rekha  
in  
SPEAKING

## THE STRUGGLE FOR EDUCATION

The Israeli occupation wields its fascistic authority over all areas of Palestinian infrastructure. In my trip to Palestine this summer, I found that this was particularly true for education. I went to a small village outside of Ramallah called Deir Ibzya which had suffered four months of the physical presence of tanks and soldiers. During this period many crimes were committed by the IDF, but there seemed to be a particular focus on undermining education. Whilst I was in Deir Ibzya I volunteered in the summer camp set up by local man Deeb Kamal.

The summer camp catered for anything up to 150-250 kids aged between 4 -17. Deeb's incentive in organising this camp was to reinitiate an interest in education, an area of life that suffers under the occupation. "Before the summer camp, not one of the children in Deir Ibzya smiled," Deeb stated. And why should they? With threats of food and water shortages, curfews and incursions, there is a sense of hopelessness about their futures exacerbated by the disruption in education

Leila Kamal, Deeb's daughter who taught English at the summer camp, stressed: "Life is very difficult in the occupation; it affects school very much." Some days students miss class because either they or the teachers are unable to get to the school in Ramallah due to checkpoints. Other days they are not allowed to leave their houses because of curfew. In addition to this, students have to juggle with the difficulties of living under the harsh conditions of the occupation, as well as deal with the uncertainty of completing their school year. "We don't know when to study for exams - sometimes we study for them

and then it is cancelled; other times we think there is no use and then we have to sit them."

If this isn't bad enough, soldiers guard the entrances of schools sometimes provoking and terrorising students on their way in to school. "One time, on my way into an exam, I walked into school. A soldier called me back, but because I was so nervous about the exam, I kept on walking. The soldier then grabbed me by the neck and tried to strangle me," says Leila. Unfortunately, Leila was not the only student to have suffered an attack from the IDF. The local primary school, holding around 200 children, was tear-gassed, though luckily nobody was seriously injured.

As well as efforts to discourage or threaten students away from education the IDF have also taken steps to undermine the services schools provide. The local secondary school in Ramallah was severely vandalised, with the IDF breaking down a wall in the playground, vandalising the library, and smashing the computers - as well as creating general chaos in the rest of the school. I asked Leila why she thought the Israeli state authority would allow and promote these actions: "They are scared of Palestinians being educated. They are more scared of that then they are of Hamas."

It seems that these words hold much wisdom. The

Israeli government is scared of allowing a dispossessed nation a voice. Maybe it's because there is a chance that it will gain so much intellectual momentum that perhaps one day the world will be forced to listen. Denying Palestinians education is denying them the ideological tools to arm themselves. After all, knowledge is power. Suppressing the education of a nation denies them a part of their identity.

The Palestinian people will never be able to counteract the misinformation being propagated by Israel and its allies in the west unless they are able to get their message out to the world. In fact this proves how amoral the occupation is: by the excessive force that is used to prevent Palestinians speaking of it.

This seems like a cog in the works of Sharon's ultimate plan - to push Palestinians off their land, by leaving them with nothing to work towards and nothing to hope for. In Palestine it is impossible to make plans for the next day, let alone plan your academic future. Leila and her sister Nadia plan to leave Palestine to go to University. When I asked Leila how she felt about the future, she replied: "There is no future for Palestine. The future is very bad. If it gets better it will get worse. We will never live in peace and safety as long as there is an occupation in Palestine."

BY AYESHA IN CATFORD



# Puppets, black gold and tyranny, hit the Middle East... again

In 2001 our current great and glorious leader of the "free world" came to power. With a little ballot rigging here and there and huge amounts of corporate cash, George W. Bush became president of the United States of America.

He was hugely unpopular with the American public until September 11th, when the US was the victim of a horrific terrorist attack which - like all reactionary tactics - got the perpetrators nowhere. It provided the US government with a perfect and timely excuse to "bring order to the world" or in other words embark on the biggest wave of Empire building the world has witnessed since the 19th Century.

First came Afghanistan and the deaths of over four thousand civilians directly killed by American bombs. The result? The creation of an undemocratic state nominally headed by America's puppet, Hamid Karzai. Now America is planning to embark on its new adventure. They want "regime change" in Iraq and they will use massive military force to get it.

Why is America - the world's wealthiest country - prepared to risk the lives of 250,000 American troops in a bid to topple Saddam Hussein from power? George Bush would have you believe that it is because he has Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). This argument is hypocritical: America is after all the only country in the world ever to used a WMD in war. Also, it implies that Iraq is the only nation in the Middle East to have such weapons. It is well known that Israel, America's key ally in the region, has had nuclear weapons for years.

Bush has reminded the world that Saddam used poison gas against the Kurds in Halabja in



1988. This was a terrible act, yet the US and Britain knew about it at the time and continued to supply Saddam with weapons afterwards. The Scott Inquiry revealed that soon after the attack, Washington approved the export to Iraq of virus cultures and a \$1bn contract to design and build a petrochemical plant where the Iraqis planned to produce mustard gas. And while the Reagan administration publicly condemned the use of chemical weapons during the eight-year Iraq-Iran war, the US army was secretly supplying Iraq with bomb-damage assessments and detailed information on Iranian troop deployments.

No, this war is about "black gold". It is about wealth and so it is about power. Iraq has the second largest known oil reserves in the world. The Middle East itself dominates world oil exports accounting for a colossal 47% of the market.

The major issue for American capitalism is whether the Middle East can remain a stable provider of cheap oil over the next twenty years. Oil is essential to America's economy and the maintenance of profits of the capitalists. This addiction to "black gold" has consequences for all of us who live, work and study in the West.

The giant oil multinationals like Esso who bankrolled Bush's bid for presidency will reap massive profits from stealing oil from a defeated and occupied Iraq.

Whereas the wealth created from the winnings of a war in Iraq is a key factor behind this new imperialism, it is not the main reason. Oil is strategically a vital asset and America - in the same way that its military are always after "full spectrum dominance" in terms of military power - also wants to further their control of the global oil market. Any state that stepped out of line could be potentially crippled because America could just turn off the flow of oil. At the same time, America wants to make sure that this power doesn't reside with anyone else.

That's why the American imperialists are scared. They are scared that their power is slipping. They look at the despotic Saudi royals who the US supports and see a regime that is despised by its population and shows an increasing tendency for Islamic militancy. Fifteen of the hijackers on September 11th

## IMPERIALISM

Lenin described imperialism as the highest stage of capitalism. The nature of capitalism and its doctrine of profit maximisation means that imperialism is a process that the capitalists are forced into in search of greater profits in ever shrinking and unstable markets. The idea of imperialism can be roughly broken down into three main categories: monopolies, finance capital and militarism.

### Monopolies

Monopolies (in the shape of multinationals) are more powerful than ever before. Fifty-one of the 100 biggest economic units are now corporations rather than countries; and the 3 wealthiest individuals have more than the poorest 48 countries put together. This process of monopolisation goes hand in hand with technology being increasingly controlled by imperialist powers. Less than 80% of the world has access to a telephone line and less than 5% has access to the Internet.

In turn the gap between richer imperialist countries and developing countries has become greater and greater. Over the past 20 years living standards for people in the developing world have gone down and life expectancies have plummeted. All the while the World Trade Organisation has forced open the markets of the

poorer nations under the guise of "free trade".

### Finance Capital

Again the process of imperialism means finance capital is being concentrated into fewer and fewer hands. Today literally a handful of banks control finance capital the world over. Who were the biggest profiteers of the financial ruin in Argentina - HSBC and Citibank. Twenty years ago 90% of trade was goods and commodities and 10% finance capital (currency speculators, shares, bonds etc). Today the opposite is the case.

The result of this is that the economy becomes ever more unstable. We've seen this in the economic collapse of the so-called "Tiger Economies" of South East Asia in 1997 and the collapse or near collapse of countries like Argentina, Brazil and Turkey. Overnight billions are pulled out of markets and millions of workers thrown on the scrap heap by speculators in western countries.

The pinnacle of this process seems to be the creation of the IMF and the World Bank. The loans that developing countries are forced into are given at a price and this isn't just huge interest rates. The conditions attached to the loans mean that countries are forced down the road of neo-liberalism with the slashing of the wel-

fare state and public services and the wholesale privatisation of any nationalised industries. This along with the huge interest rates drives the economy further into poverty and this develops into a vicious cycle like we've seen in Argentina and results in wholesale economic collapse. But of course imperialism doesn't just use economic methods to enforce its will - it also uses military conquest.

### Militarism

The US now has a military presence in over 100 countries around the world. On top of this there has been the military assistance that has been given by the West to brutal regimes like Pinochet in Chile and Suharto in Indonesia who killed over 1 million people. And of course the military assistance given to dictatorships like Saddam Hussein and the Taliban when they were on side.

Virtually every war in the 20th century either directly involved imperialist military forces, or military forces backed and financed by the West. Even WWII, a supposed war of democracy vs. fascism, was no more than imperialist forces battling it out for control over colonies. The imperialists were rubbing their hands together as Hitler smashed and massacred the Communists and workers movement. And people such as

# the imperialist armies are gonna

by luke in  
reigate

came from Saudi Arabia and Bin Laden's Al-Qaida organisation has received funding from sections of the Saudi royal family.

As in Afghanistan, America will inevitably install its own man in power if it is victorious in the upcoming war in Iraq. The lip service the White House pays to democracy and freedom is sickening when we see the consequences these "crusades for justice" have upon the people they are suppose to "liberate".

But victory is by no means assured. The Middle East is already one of the most volatile regions in the World. America can expect huge civil unrest across the region that could potentially topple some of its corrupt friends. During the last Gulf War Israel was attacked with scud missiles by Iraq, but remained neutral due to American pressure. This time however it has made no such promises and, in fact, has said it would retaliate. Were Israel to get involved it could potentially bring other Middle Eastern nations into a conflict further derailing America's chances of victory.

And what about Britain's role in all this? Tony Blair would like us to think that we must join in an invasion of Iraq because it has been in breach of UN council resolutions. This smacks of hypocrisy. Israel has been in breach of similar resolutions for the 35 years it has occupied the West Bank and Gaza, yet is one of our "friends" in the Middle East.

Tony Blair has said that he will support military action. If he does, he will be greeted by one of the biggest protest movements this country has ever seen. Should American soldiers begin returning to the States in body bags, rest assured that a movement of similar size will mushroom across the pond. Wherever you are, in Iraq, Britain, the US, Palestine: resist the imperialist aggression. The imperialists must be defeated.

Churchill made admiring comments about the Nazi regime. It was only when Hitler began to threaten the interests of other imperialists that the war began. As Churchill commented, "WW2 was won on a sea of Arab oil."

And the 21<sup>st</sup> century is continuing this process with the attack on Afghanistan, the upcoming war with Iraq and the so-called "War on Terrorism".

The military option is always there and goes hand-in-hand with the economic imperialism talked about earlier. It ensures that countries that get out of hand get forced back into line. It is also a way of staving off the movements that inevitably come out of the poverty that is enforced on developing countries and, of course, a way of distracting people from unpopular measures and economic troubles within the imperialist countries themselves. That's why the military budget of the US is now over \$400 billion, nearly as much as the rest of the world's military budgets put together.

The three pronged process of: multi-national corporations backed up by the World Trade Organisation; the increased power of finance capital in fewer and fewer hands backed by the IMF and World Bank; and the ever more powerful military machine of the US and the West means imperialism is a greater power today than ever before.

by dan in  
lewisham

## WHY AMERICA CAN'T FIND ALLIES FOR "REGIME CHANGE" IN IRAQ

Despite months of propaganda and diplomatic preparation, George W Bush is still finding it extremely difficult to get international support for his planned attack on Iraq. Tony Blair is faring little better closer to home. Opinion polls have shown that a majority of people in this country would be opposed to a war - and this before any fighting has started or the emergence of a mass anti-war movement. At the same time, trade unions, Labour MPs and even the new Archbishop of Canterbury have come out publicly against a pre-emptive strike, at least without UN approval.

This stands in sharp contrast to the situation last year, when widespread revulsion at the September 11th atrocities gave the US the green light to launch its 'War On Terror'. Or the last Gulf War in 1991, when most of the Arab states supported and took part in the anti-Iraq coalition.

The same pattern is repeated on a global scale. Both candidates in the German elections have opposed their country's involvement in a war - a sign of its unpopularity. Incumbent German chancellor, Schroeder, in particular is trying to distract attention from his broken promises to the German workers who voted him into office by posing as a supporter of world peace at a time of great crisis.

Only Israel has shown enthusiasm for a war - for obvious reasons. A successful war on Iraq would put Sharon in a much better position to impose terms on the Palestinians, and might even signal the end of their uprising. Uri Avnery, a leading figure on the Israeli left, went so far as to accuse Sharon of wanting to use the opportunity of a regional war to carry out his long-held plans for 'transfer' - the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians out of the West Bank and into Jordan. In the same week, almost as if to prove the point, an influential right-wing think-tank called Gamla published an article called 'The Logistics of Transfer', outlining how Israel could practically execute this plan, the circumstances in which they could do it, and how they could get away with it. Crucially they say that all would be needed is the tacit approval of the US and the absence of external intervention.

The Arab states are the least happy about America's plans. While Bush insists that Saddam is a threat to his neighbours, they themselves feel more threatened by the dangerous example that 'regime change' might set. After all, their regimes may be the next to change. Pro-US governments in Iraq and Afghanistan would isolate Iran and put pressure on the 'reformers'



in its government to open up the country to foreign investment and stop 'supporting terrorism'. Similarly, Syria or any other Arab state that doesn't enthusiastically join in the fiction of 'peace' with Israel's occupation of the Palestinians might find itself under threat.

But most of all, the Arab states are frightened of their own peoples. They know that their peoples' anger has been stoked up by the sanctions on Iraq and the brutal repression of the Palestinian Intifada, and fear that war against another long-suffering Arab country could cause an social explosion.

Even the Iraqi Kurds - who have good reasons for hating Saddam - have stood back from getting involved, scuppering the idea of using them in the same way as the US used the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan. The reason is that that they have been betrayed by the West before. George Bush Snr encouraged them to rise against Saddam at the end of the last Gulf War, only to stand back while Saddam used his tanks to crush their revolt. They also know that the US alliance with Turkey - which treats its 14 million Kurds even worse than Saddam treated his - means that they would never allow an independent Kurdistan to emerge out of the chaos.

There does, however, still remain the possibility that Bush could try to cobble together enough approval from Russia, China and France to pass a United Nations resolution that he could use as cover for an attack. Russia, ravaged by economic hardship, is owed billions by Iraq - but a quick debt write-off or aid package could turn them around. If we really want to prevent our governments from supporting an imperialist war, then what we need to do is build a mass anti-war movement on the streets and sharpen the struggle of workers and anti-capitalists against the corporate multinationals on whose behalf they rule. Then maybe a war might lead to 'regime change' over here as well.

by marcus in s.london



# ON THE CAMPUSES: We are the people your parents warned you about!

So, student life? Beer, sex, partying, clubbing, studying (?!?!?) - all perfectly normal. But what about campus occupations? Street demonstrations? Fighting the fascists? Marxist revolutionary politics? Printing subversive literature on the university presses?

This is the history of student radicalism - a history that takes in France 1968, the anti-Vietnam war protests, Tianamen Square, and - more recently - the toppling of the Suharto regime in Indonesia, the occupation of the entire national university system for several months in Mexico in 1999 and the anti-sweatshop campaigns across US campuses that has forced the likes of Nike and Gap onto the backfoot over the slave labour conditions in their factories.

So why is student radicalism important? Because the students of today will be workers of tomorrow. Universities have traditionally been a hot bed of revolutionary activity and Revolution wants to carry that fine tradition forward!

The students in France in 1968 fought back against the state and occupied the campuses, turning them into anti-capitalist centres of resistance. They organised mass meetings of thousands and it was their struggle that acted as the detonator for the workers struggle which culminated in the biggest general strike the world had ever seen. Student protests across the United States and Europe in the 60's challenged the capitalist war machine and radicalised a whole generation.

Despite being educated under a capitalist system, students are often amongst those who see through the corruption and exploitation, and have the energy and vitality to resist. They have been crucial in fighting back against the bosses and warmongers.

Students occupied Tianamen Square in 1989 for months and courageously stood up to the tanks and soldiers of the corrupt dictatorship. The same with Indonesia in 1998-1999 when the student protests spilt over from the campuses onto the streets and fought to remove Suharto and his cronies from power.

But what is there to protest about in the UK today? On local levels students have occupied SOAS, UEL, Goldsmiths in London, plus many other universities and colleges around the UK demanding everything from more pay for teachers to better

photographic equipment! Protests over everything from tuition fees to anti-sweatshop demonstrations. New Labour is attacking our living and working standards and attacking the education system - only the workers and students can stop them.

But many think that student radicalism is now a thing of the past, that students don't care anymore and aren't interested in politics. Now the workers in the UK have started to fight back against capitalism with the wave of strikes earlier in the year so there has never been a better time than now to prove the critics wrong.

Revolution will be linking up with student groups nationally and internationally and if you think that revolution is the only solution then join us now. What does it mean to be a revolutionary on campus?

\* Fight tuition fees! End the scandal of having to pay for an education.

\* Take back the NUS! Make it a fighting union that defends student interests.

\* Fighting discrimination: stamp out racism, sexism and homophobia. No plat-



form for fascists!

\* Stop the war! Hands off Iraq! Stop US/UK/UN imperialism from slaughtering countless innocent people around the world! Build the anti-war movement.

\* Get involved in the Anti-Capitalist Movement! We need to take the spirit of the protests in Seattle, Genoa and Seville into every struggle on campus. We need to link the anti-capitalism and radicalism of the movement with the workers and students around the world.

Its time to take back the universities, the streets, and the work places. Revolution will be active on the campuses this year, join us and find out what student life is really about!

**By Simon H in Sheffield**

## Education is a right

**It should be free and open to all who wish to use it. It should be paid for by a progressive tax system that can really solve the crisis in funding by hitting the rich; taxing their unearned income and massive profits that they gain by robbing the workers of the world.**

- We oppose all private and fee-paying education and any role in schools and colleges for private corporations.
- We oppose all religious schools. We oppose all segregation of the sexes. We oppose all discrimination in schools.
- We fight all petty restrictions on students'

dress, culture, lifestyle and self-expression. We demand the right to study, discuss and organise politically within the schools and colleges.

- Abolish student debts.
- All students should receive a living grant from the age of 16
- Schools colleges and universities to be run by democratically elected committees of students, teachers and education workers.
- For independent students' unions, with all officials elected and held accountable to the student body at large.

# What does student politics mean to you?

By Rachel in Camden

Most people probably think of the protest movements of the sixties and seventies, demonstrations, occupations and teach-ins. In universities around the country, student activism is on the rise once again in response to the War on Terror™, as hundreds of students from my university (SOAS) joined thousands of students and others from around the country on national demonstrations. We have helped to organise numerous actions and meetings throughout the year.

However, last April I saw the other side of student politics in Britain when I was elected to go to the NUS conference. As I said in the article I wrote when I got back, most people's contact with NUS is limited to getting 10% discounts with their NUS card. Many of the people who bother getting themselves elected to the conference are either Labour Students, or right-wing "independents" (who are not as independent as they seem to think) and seem think



they can disguise this by saying, "I don't want to see the NUS dominated by factions" every time they speak.

Some good came out of the conference - several good, political, anti-war candidates were elected to the block of twelve part-time officers (which the "independents" want to cut because that sort of thing keeps happening...), and towards the end of the conference we put the politics back into student politics when we occupied the stage in protest at the time-wasting techniques the National Executive had used to stop the conference debating an emergency motion

on Palestine. It was a good opportunity to meet students from around the country, and hear about political activity at their universities, plus the late night fringe meetings on Argentina, Palestine and the future of the anti-capitalist movement.

On the whole I think this is a good time to get involved with your Students' Union. Don't be put off by the amount of time some of them spend debating how many hundreds of pounds to spend on new kit for the rugby team - speak to your (full or part time, paid, ex-student) sabbatical officers and find out how to get funding for your own society (call Revolution for advice if you're having trouble). You may find that your union officers will appreciate your support to encourage students to use the union's resources, and to get involved with the battles they will be having with University management. If the union is hard work, don't despair - many universities have a Stop the War group, and quite a few have members of Revolution, so get in touch - we hardly talk about sports kit at all...



## Stephen Lawrence suspected killers jailed - finally

By Darren in South London

Race is still as volatile a time bomb as ever before. The arrest and conviction of two of the 'alleged' killers of Stephen Lawrence for a subsequent racist attack on an off-duty black police officer is meant to show that such racist attitudes and actions will not be tolerated by society.

Yet Neil Acourt's cry of 'a fit up' while being led to prison is somewhat true, even if it is not exactly in the way Mr Acourt would lead us to believe. The 'fit up' as he put it, is clear: by arresting and imprisoning these racist thugs, the Metropolitan Police feels it has evened the 'score'. The crime was exposing the police to be the racist incompetent force it surely is. Yet these two scumbags will only serve, say, six months with 'good behaviour': six months for murder, fame and notoriety on a national and international scale (from their point of view a fair trade).

In Eltham and beyond, these boys must be seen as the 'Teflon Gang', upholding the hate-filled rhetoric of the 'old English true Brit brigade' - the stuff of racist leg-

end. The Met have much more to do to convince me for one, and society as a whole, that they protect not just the white majority. This is a long way off, and trying to recruit more ethnic minorities into its ranks is no more than a token step in this direction.

A closer look at the national picture of policing and the judicial system in this country will show that hypocrisy and double standards resound. The Met are incapable of seeing ethnic youth as anything other than a threat, instead of a people who are trying to gain true equality and respect from a government that publicly pretends to strive for change whilst privately makes things worse. This is evident by some of



the decisions made by the Crown Prosecution Service.

Under capitalism no real change can take place. The system is racist from top to bottom. While we as activists can attack and highlight the flaws of policing under this system, true and real change can only come from removing those in power who see ethnic minorities in general, and ethnic youth in particular (whether first or second generation) as unwelcome intruders. It is time to change the attitudes and values of an institution imbedded with racism.

# LATIN AMERICA



## Mexican peasants defeat the government plans for airport

BY SIMON IN SHEFFIELD

**A**cross Latin America the people are rising up against the neo-liberal economic model which has devastated their entire continent. In Argentina, five governments came and went in a matter of weeks in the face of a popular uprising. In Venezuela, a US backed coup was overturned when the people from the poor barrios rallied in support of the democratically elected president Hugo Chavez. And in Bolivia, Evo Morales, a peasant farmer and head of the coca growers union, came second in the presidential election. A further chapter in the struggles against the rule of corporations was written in Mexico on the 1st of August. It was on that day that the peasant farmers of Texcoco won their struggle against the plan to build an airport on their lands.

Their fight began nine months previously when the government announced it was going to seize 5,400 hectares of land on which to construct the \$2.8 billion project. President Vincente Fox claimed it would bring wealth and prosperity to the impoverished region. Of course the reality would be very different. The vast majority of the regions inhabitants are peasant farmers, completely dependant on the land for their livelihood and the government was only offering the derisory sum of 7.2 pesos per square meter as compensation (about 50p). In the words of one resident of Atenco (the town most affected by the airport construction): "The land is my life, my identity, and to lose it is my death. And who really believes that later they will employ us in their luxury hotels, or even allow us into the airport with a little cart of tamales or atole? The only time they'll come for us will be when, on the other side of the fence, they'll be looking for some criminal? The only beneficiaries being Fox and his cronies in big business."

The day the land seizures were announced the townspeople took action: they erected barricades on the land to prevent the police and machinery gaining access, blocked roads and set up a permanent encampment in the town square. A day later the mayor fled, taking with him his municipal officials, including the police!!! The people of Atenco took over the town hall - changing the name to the Sanctuary of Resistance - and began running local affairs and the struggle against the airport through mass meetings. Immediately they launched a campaign to gain the support of ordinary workers and peasants throughout Mexico. They contacted trade unions, communities and political organisations. They marched through Mexico City with their machetes held high. Other towns in the area - inspired by Atenco - threw out their own officials and took over the running of their own affairs. Ordinary Mexican's identified with their struggle because they too were fighting the same forces - corrupt politicians and corporations seeking to exploit the poor in the pursuit of profit.

President Fox was determined to extinguish this beacon of hope that was inspiring the poor and

oppressed. He began a campaign of brutal repression against the uprising, attacking demonstrations with tear gas and live ammunition and arresting the leaders of resistance. Designed to weaken the resolve of the peoples of Atenco, it had the opposite effect. They responded by blockading all the major roads in the area, set vehicles on fire, and battled riot police with their machetes and molotov cocktails. Finally they seized over a dozen police officers and government officials as hostages to be exchanged for those activists arrested earlier. Shortly afterwards the state backed down and released all the arrested farmers. Three weeks later they capitulated completely and announced that an alternative location for the airport would be found.

The people of Atenco have been radicalised by their experience. When the mayor tried to return, they chased him out of town and declared Atenco an Autonomous Municipality. Their victory has also inspired resistance movements across the country, with farmers occupying land and others threatening an "Atenco-style mobilisation" to gain compensation for land which has been seized in the past. Most importantly this victory proved an inspiration for workers and small farmers throughout Mexico. By putting President Fox on the back foot they have stalled his programme of privatisation and attacks on the working class. The task is now to make the whole of Mexico and Latin America an autonomous zone free from the rule of the capitalists and American imperialism.

## Argentina:

I asked the taxi driver to drop me off at 554 Jujuy Avenue, as we were driving up this busy street in Buenos Aires. He suddenly raises a questioning eyebrow, "Number 554, sure?" I nod enthusiastically, "Yes, I am sure." It is the address of the Brukman factory which has been under workers occupation since the 18th December 2001.

After not having paid the workers for weeks, the boss left the factory and its workforce in a hurry when the economy of Argentina melted down thanks to IMF policies. Rather than lose their jobs, the Brukman workers decided to occupy the factory.

Outside the factory building hangs banners and posters proclaiming the workers occupation. It is an incredible and inspiring sight. I am met at the factory gates by Carlos who speaks English; he showed me around the place and introduced me to some of the workers there. He explained that the around 50 workers at the factory are manufacturing clothes, mainly suits. Much of the textile industry is dominated by women and Brukman is no different. Most of the workers here are women and immigrants. I asked my guide whether the women encountered any difficulties from home when they took the decision to occupy the factory. Carlos laughed, "Yes, well, a few households were battlegrounds, but they got their way."

Initially the workers were worried about whether it was legal or not to continue making their suits, but then the mass movements of the following days in December

Below are three articles by Revolution members describing the struggles of the people of Central and south America.  
**Miriam** writes of her recent visit to a factory which has been taken over and run by the workers in Argentina where IMF inspired cuts have devastated the economy.  
**Simon** reports on the recent victory of Mexican peasants against the seizure of their lands which is inspiring similar actions across the region. And last but not least, **Fran & Paolo** our roving Latin American correspondents, report from Colombia where they have arrived just as the workers and peasants are uniting their struggles against the neoliberal attacks orchestrated by new right wing president Uribe.

# LETTER FROM COLOMBIA



Hola Compañeros y Compañeras,  
 Everything is cool here in Cali (well, everything apart from the weather...a scorching average of 34 degrees). OK, brief latest news about the mobilisation in Colombia. Things have finally started to move.

The South West mobilisation has thankfully expanded its horizons and potentially become the basis for a wave of protests and strikes at national level on issues ranging from localised campesino (peasant) territorial demands through pension and working rights.

The mobilisation began as purely student and campesino movement but recently has seen the incorporation of some of the country's largest and, happily, most belligerent unions, mainly the CUT (Central Unitaria de Trabajadores) who rep-

resent 700,000 workers of the public sector, education, public health (or what's left of it), petrochemical and energy workers...good potential to cause Uribe's fledgling government a serious headache.

The campesino part of the protest comes on the back of a drastic increase in land concentration. In 1984, 0.5% of land owners controlled 32.5% of Colombia's rural areas. By 2001 0.4% owned over 61% of the land, the majority of this land is either used for cattle grazing or left unused.

In preparation for the mobilisation, the government has promoted cheap imports in order to limit the economic fallout of the campesino action.

On the workers' front, a few union such as CUT and CGT (Central General Trabajadores)

have joined the mobilisation in protest at recent neoliberal free trade agreements which have resulted in attacks on workers and pensions rights (didn't think any further reduction was possible).

The CUT and CGT sensibly SEEM to have accepted that participation in the proposed national strikes on Sept 16th is the best way to achieve their aims.

As of yet it is unclear what form the CUT and CGT protests will take, this is largely due to the extreme repercussions that public sector workers in particular can expect from any sort strike action. In Colombia, strikes would generally result in the striking parties losing their jobs and worse. For this reason, they are forced to call 'days of protests' instead which might range from baking bread for charity to marching, but will NOT include any halt to production or services.

In addition, there are several universities involved (Univalle - Cali, Unicauca - Popayan, Uni de Nariño - Pasto, Uni Nacional - Bogota, Uni de Antioquia - Medellin) whose actions are yet to be decided. It is highly likely that the student actions will be organised at next week's Campamento (Wed 11th and Thu 12th) held at Univalle (Cali) which we will of course be attending.

Sept 16th seems to be the likely

date when there will be coordinated actions on a National scale by workers, campesinos and students, who, through unification of their individual demands, will be providing a united front to mobilise and protest against the imposition of the neoliberal economic model, ALCA (FTAA) and social and political discrimination.

Comrades here are constantly asking us for reactions from back home (i.e. you lot) so since this now seems to be a nationwide affair with potentially far reaching consequences, messages of support will be most appreciated.

For the record we have had a couple of meeting to set the wheels in motion regarding NO SWEAT and Palestine debates (publication of Joy's article in Univalle student newspaper and one forum). The idea is to establish campaigns on both issues which will include a possible visit to Maquilas situated some 60miles south of Cali.

Hope you are all right and we will write more during the Campamento next week.

Besos...

Paolo and Fran

**Messages of support can be sent via Fran & Paolo.**

**Email: Fran\_Paolo@hotmail.com**

## Brukman workers lead the way

gave the workers confidence and all worries about any illegalities vanished. By the 26 December around 20 students were among the first to come to the factory to express their solidarity with the Brukman workers. The government wanted the factory to be turned into a legal and officially recognised co-operative. Lengthy discussions followed. It was the experiences of Zanon, another occupied factory under workers' control, and the ceramic workers there which was to help the workers at Brukman to finally decide to go the radical way and vote for workers control.

I asked whether anything had changed in the production process for the better. I was told that things had changed completely. The first thing was of course that no-one looked over your shoulder all the time anymore: "They can now go to the toilet without being harassed." The next development was that the workers re-organised the production process, so that now individuals did not just sew trousers or sleeves or jackets all day, but all the sewers are together on one floor so they can talk to each other and follow the production process of each item of clothing. They were trying to find ways of combating the dehumanising elements of capitalist production. I asked how decisions are taken and was told that the workers hold regular open meetings, assemblies which are aimed to organise production, demonstrations and marches. The Brukman workers have received a tremendous amount of solidarity. They have forged a political unity with the ceramic workers of Zanon and

they promote unity with the vibrant unemployment movement. They go on demonstrations together, and join each other in protests.

Earlier in the year the state could not stand by any longer and the police briefly took over the factory. The workers immediately contacted the media and the network of the popular assemblies, which had previously organised a solidarity commission for a strike fund for the workers as well as self-defence. The workers had seen the repression measures of the police before so they were painfully aware that they must be able to defend themselves.

Hundreds of people were very quickly mobilised and people arrived banging pots in protest. Facing an ever-growing crowd, the police quickly left.

The Brukman workers are an inspiration to all of us. They continue to hold out, producing their suits and selling them. They also know that they can not continue forever and they can not go it alone. They want to see all workers in Argentina take over their factories. They want to see a general strike. They also know that Argentina



can not go it all alone, but that workers all over the world must shake off their chains of oppression and put an end to capitalism. It is a hard struggle, but as one of the workers there said to me, after explaining that they do not want their bosses back, "We need to struggle to the end."

**MIRIAM** in Brum

**Messages of solidarity can be sent to: brukmansolidarity@hotmail.com**

# NO JUSTICE NO PEACE

Last year Asian youth in the northern towns of Burnley, Oldham and Bradford defended their neighbourhoods from fascist attack and then fought back against police provocation. Now they are being persecuted for it by the institutionally racist British courts.

## Political Trials

First off, the police laid a large number of charges of riot - which is rare - that carries a maximum 10 year sentence! And the head of the Crown Prosecution Service is authorising it! The racism goes right to the top.

150 people have been charged and so far 97 men and youths have been sentenced to average terms of more than four years; some have got over 8 years. This is despite the fact that many are first time offenders and have "respectable" jobs. In one case, a youth got 11 months for picking up but not throwing two stones. People are getting imprisoned for not having done anything!

The Judge Stephen Gullick claimed he wasn't discriminating. Yet white youth who rioted the day after on the Ravenscliffe Estate in Bradford, burning cars and attacking police, got a maximum of 18 months in prison!

Judge Gullick explained the political nature of his sentencing, stressing that the jail terms were not simply for what each defendant had done as an individual - it was the collective guilt of revolt they were being punished for. "That charge... includes not only the actions of the individual defendants such as yourselves, but also the unlawful conduct of all those around you." Gerry Sutcliffe, Labour MP for Bradford South chimed in, defending the sentences due to "the damage that was done to the reputation of the city." David Blunkett, the Home Secretary, went further saying the sentences were a "reprisal but also a message to the community." He has labelled the Bradford youth "maniacs" who "should stop whining" about their sentences.

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## Fair Justice for All

The blatantly unjust and racist nature of the sentences is angering many. Families and activists have begun a campaign called Fair Justice for All and are appealing to

get the sentences reduced. Everyone should support the campaign's demand for a public enquiry because this is an opportunity to expose the whole legal system - look at how the Stephen Lawrence enquiry exposed police racism. However, the campaign condemns the riots; they just want "fairer" sentences.

But Revo refuses to condemn the riots. Self-defense is no offense. And we demand the release all the prisoners. The government has no moral right to condemn and punish those who revolt against the poverty it has created. They were right to organise against the fascists and defend their communities and streets from the police. This was a revolt against the everyday poverty, discrimination and boredom of capitalism.

The fight isn't over. A slew of investigations into the riots finished at the end of last year, most of them pushing the idea that the Asian communities are segregating themselves. Conclusion? That they should be forced to learn more English and take loyalty tests! This is blatant racist discrimination since the youth that rioted are for the most part at least second generation and speak perfect English, right down to the Yorkshire accent! Now Labour's answer to segregation and deprivation is gimmicks and media stunts like releasing doves in Bradford to symbolise peace. It will not be long before the anger at the poverty, deprivation and racist harassment flares up again.

## RELEASE ALL ANTI-FASCIST PRISONERS! - NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE!

get a copy of the petition from the campaign's website and help build the call for a public enquiry as big as possible: [www.fairjustice-campaign.co.uk](http://www.fairjustice-campaign.co.uk)

fight  
RACISM  
SMASH  
FASCISM



By ANDY IN LEEDS

**REVOLUTION**

**teach-in**

**October 19th**

★ EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS from ISM activists in the Occupied Territories

★ The POLITICAL AGENDA behind the 'War on Terrorism'

★ The EUROPEAN SOCIAL FORUM

**CENTRAL LONDON VENUE** get in touch!